

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF NEVADA

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UNITED HERE HEALTH, et. al.,  
Plaintiffs,  
v.  
TINOCO'S KITCHEN, LLC, et. al.,  
Defendants.

Case No. 2:11-cv-02025-MMD-GWF

ORDER

(Def.' Motion to Dismiss – dkt. no. 8;  
Plfs.' Motion for Leave to Amend – dkt. no. 27;  
Plfs.' Motion for Preliminary Injunction  
– dkt. no. 28).

**I. SUMMARY**

Before the Court are Defendant Tinoco's Kitchen, LLC and Enrique Tinoco's Motion to Dismiss (dkt. no. 8) as well as Plaintiffs United Here Health and Southern Nevada Culinary and Bartenders Pension Trust Fund's Motions for Leave to Amend (dkt. no. 27) and Preliminary Injunction (dkt. no. 28). After considering the briefings in these motions, the Court denies Defendants' Motion, and grants Plaintiffs' request for a preliminary injunction.

**II. BACKGROUND**

Plaintiffs United Here Health (formerly the HEREIU Welfare Fund) and the Southern Nevada Culinary and Bartenders Pension Trust Fund (collectively "Trustees") are express trusts created pursuant to Section 302 of the Labor Management Relations Act of 1947 ("LMRA") by written declarations of trust ("Trust Agreements") between the Culinary Workers Union, Local 226 and Bartenders Union, Local 165 (collectively "the Unions") and various employers and employer associations in the hotel-casino and

1 entertainment industries. The Unions are labor organizations representing employees in  
2 these industries in Southern Nevada.

3 Defendant PlayLV Gaming Operations, LLC ("PlayLV") is the parent company of  
4 Las Vegas Club Hotel & Casino, LLC ("LVC") and operates and manages three gaming  
5 and hotel properties in Clark County, Nevada: the Las Vegas Club Hotel and Casino, the  
6 Plaza Hotel and Casino ("Plaza"), and the Western Hotel and Casino. According to  
7 Trustees, PlayLV is the managing member of each of the hotel and casinos, and controls  
8 and directs each. Trustees further allege that PlayLV controls all financial aspects of  
9 LVC and Plaza.

10 Defendant Tinoco's Kitchen, LLC ("Tinoco's") is a Nevada limited liability company  
11 formerly doing business inside the Las Vegas Club Hotel & Casino, and is operated by  
12 Defendant Enrique Tinoco ("Enrique"). On or about January 22, 2009, Tinoco's  
13 executed a sublease for restaurant space inside LVC. (Dkt. no. 10 at ¶ 7.)

14 In their Complaint, Trustees allege that LVC breached its Collective Bargaining  
15 Agreement ("CBA") between LVC and the Unions, as well as the Trust Agreement that  
16 created the trusts. Further, Trustees allege that LVC executed a Memorandum of  
17 Agreement ("MOA") between LVC and the Unions wherein the parties agreed, among  
18 other conditions, that the employees employed in culinary and bartender positions at  
19 Tinoco's are included within the Unions' bargaining unit, retain the same fringe benefit  
20 contributions as collectively bargained with other unit employees, and that wage payroll  
21 functions are transferred to Tinoco's, including paying benefit fund contributions for  
22 hours worked by Tinoco's employees. (Dkt. no. 1 at ¶ 13.) Trustees further allege that  
23 LVC has performed all wage and payroll functions on behalf of Tinoco's.

24 A payroll compliance audit conducted of Tinoco's payroll for the period between  
25 January 23, 2009, through December 31, 2010, discovered that Tinoco's and LVC had  
26 failed to report all hours of covered labor performed by Tinoco's culinary and bartender  
27 employees as required by their collective bargaining agreement, MOA, and Trust

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1 Agreements. (See dkt. no. 1 at ¶ 16.) This resulted in a failure to pay owed fringe  
2 benefit contributions to the trusts. (*Id.*)

3 On December 16, 2011, Trustees filed the Complaint in this action alleging that  
4 LVC failed to provide timely monthly reports of Tinoco's culinary and bartender  
5 employees as required by their CBA, MOA, and Trust Agreements, as well as failed to  
6 pay fringe benefit contributions to the trust plans on a monthly basis. (See dkt. no. 1 at ¶  
7 15.) Trustees' Complaint seeks compensatory and injunctive relief for alleged breach of  
8 contract and breach of fiduciary duty claims under the Employee Retirement Income  
9 Security Act of 1974 ("ERISA").

### 10 **III. DISCUSSION**

#### 11 **A. Defendants' Motion to Dismiss (dkt. no. 8)**

12 Defendants Tinoco's and Enrique (collectively "Tinoco's Defendants") bring this  
13 Motion to Dismiss arguing that this action should be dismissed for lack of subject matter  
14 jurisdiction and failure to state a claim upon which relief can be granted. See Fed. R.  
15 Civ. P. 12(b)(1) & (6). Tinoco's Defendants argue that since no binding contract existed  
16 between Trustees and themselves, no ERISA claims can be lodged against them and no  
17 federal jurisdiction is present to try this action.

#### 18 **1. Legal Standard**

19 A court may dismiss a plaintiff's complaint for "failure to state a claim upon which  
20 relief can be granted." Fed. R. Civ. P. 12(b)(6). A properly pled complaint must provide  
21 "a short and plain statement of the claim showing that the pleader is entitled to relief."  
22 Fed. R. Civ. P. 8(a)(2); *Bell Atlantic Corp. v. Twombly*, 550 U.S. 544, 555 (2007). While  
23 Rule 8 does not require detailed factual allegations, it demands more than "labels and  
24 conclusions" or a "formulaic recitation of the elements of a cause of action." *Ashcroft v.*  
25 *Iqbal*, 556 US 662, 678 (2009) (citing *Papasan v. Allain*, 478 U.S. 265, 286 (1986)).  
26 "Factual allegations must be enough to rise above the speculative level." *Twombly*, 550  
27 U.S. at 555. Thus, to survive a motion to dismiss, a complaint must contain sufficient

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1 factual matter to “state a claim to relief that is plausible on its face.” *Iqbal*, 556 U.S. at  
2 678 (internal citation omitted).

3 In *Iqbal*, the Supreme Court clarified the two-step approach district courts are to  
4 apply when considering motions to dismiss. First, a district court must accept as true all  
5 well-pled factual allegations in the complaint; however, legal conclusions are not entitled  
6 to the assumption of truth. *Id.* at 679. Mere recitals of the elements of a cause of action,  
7 supported only by conclusory statements, do not suffice. *Id.* at 678. Second, a district  
8 court must consider whether the factual allegations in the complaint allege a plausible  
9 claim for relief. *Id.* at 679. A claim is facially plausible when the plaintiff’s complaint  
10 alleges facts that allow a court to draw a reasonable inference that the defendant is  
11 liable for the alleged misconduct. *Id.* at 678. Where the complaint does not permit the  
12 court to infer more than the mere possibility of misconduct, the complaint has “alleged–  
13 but not shown–that the pleader is entitled to relief.” *Id.* at 679 (internal quotation marks  
14 omitted). When the claims in a complaint have not crossed the line from conceivable to  
15 plausible, the complaint must be dismissed. *Twombly*, 550 U.S. at 570.

16 A complaint must contain either direct or inferential allegations concerning “all the  
17 material elements necessary to sustain recovery under *some* viable legal theory.”  
18 *Twombly*, 550 U.S. at 562 (quoting *Car Carriers, Inc. v. Ford Motor Co.*, 745 F.2d 1101,  
19 1106 (7th Cir. 1989) (emphasis in original)).

## 20 2. Analysis

### 21 a. Subject matter jurisdiction

22 Tinoco’s Defendants claim that the Court lacks jurisdiction to hear this suit  
23 because no binding contract between themselves and Trustees exists. This argument  
24 fails, but not because Tinoco’s Defendants are incorrect on the merits of their Motion.  
25 As the Ninth Circuit has recognized in another ERISA case, the sometimes confusing  
26 distinction between dismissal for want of jurisdiction and dismissal for failure to state a  
27 claim “has bedeviled the courts of appeals” among the courts. See *Trs. of Screen Actors*  
28 *Guild-Producers Pension and Health Plans v. NYCA, Inc.*, 572 F.3d 771, 775 (9th Cir.

2009). Thus, the question in *NYCA, Inc.* – whether a non-party to a collective bargaining agreement is liable for unpaid contributions – is a question on the merits of an ERISA claim, not a jurisdictional one. *Id.* There, the court noted that “[i]t is a cardinal principle of federal ‘arising under’ jurisdiction that any non-frivolous assertion of a federal claim suffices to establish federal question jurisdiction, even if that claim is later dismissed on the merits.” *Id.* (quoting *Cement Masons Health & Welfare Trust Fund for N. Cal. v. Stone*, 197 F.3d 1003, 1008 (9th Cir. 1999)). Since Trustees’ claims are not frivolous, jurisdiction under 29 U.S.C. § 185(a) and 29 U.S.C. § 1145(e) exists to hear this action. See 29 U.S.C. § 1145(e) (“[T]he district courts of the United States shall have exclusive jurisdiction of civil actions under this subchapter brought by the Secretary or by a participant, beneficiary, fiduciary, or any person referred to in section 1021(f)(1) of this title.”); 29 U.S.C. § 185(a) (“Suits for violation of contracts between an employer and a labor organization representing employees in an industry affecting commerce as defined in this chapter, or between any such labor organizations, may be brought in any district court of the United States having jurisdiction of the parties, . . . .”); see also *Local 159, 342, 343 & 444 v. Nor-Cal Plumbing, Inc.*, 185 F.3d 978, 984 (9th Cir. 1999) (noting that although ERISA does not provide a source of jurisdiction for ERISA trust plans to sue as plaintiffs, 29 U.S.C. § 185 confers subject matter jurisdiction over the trust plan’s action and that this grant of jurisdiction covers disputes over the recovery of fringe benefits under collective bargaining agreements).

**b. Failure to state a claim**

Tinoco’s Defendants’ Rule 12(b)(6) arguments also fail. The mere fact that Tinoco’s is not in privity of contract with Trustees does not defeat an ERISA claim. The LMRA requires that payments to a trust fund be made pursuant to a “written agreement with the employer.” 29 U.S.C. § 186(c)(5)(B). Courts have held that such an agreement need not be signed, but need only be written and need only “set forth a detailed basis on which payments are to be made to a trust fund.” See, e.g., *Brown v. C. Volante Corp.*, 194 F.3d 351, 355 (2d Cir. 1999) (quoting *id.*); *Moriarty v. Larry G. Lewis Funeral Dirs.*

1 *Ltd.*, 150 F.3d 773, 777 (7th Cir. 1998) (“Both § 302(c)(5)(B) and general principles of  
2 contract law permit an employer to adopt a collective bargaining agreement by a course  
3 of conduct plus a writing . . .”).

4 Accordingly, whether a formal contract exists between Tinoco’s Defendants and  
5 Trustees is of little importance, so long as a writing exists that details how payments are  
6 to be made, and some conduct manifesting adoption of a collective bargaining  
7 agreement. *See S. Cal. Painters & Allied Trade Dist. Council. No. 36 v. Best Interiors,*  
8 *Inc.*, 359 F.3d 1127, 1133 (9th Cir. 2004) (“To determine whether a party has adopted a  
9 contract by its conduct, the relevant inquiry is whether the party has displayed conduct  
10 manifesting an intention to abide by the terms of the agreement.”). Trustees have  
11 sufficiently alleged in their Complaint that Tinoco’s Defendants were under an obligation  
12 to report and pay contributions of fringe benefits to their unionized employees. Trustees  
13 first allege that the MOA includes a provision that bartender and culinary employees  
14 employed at Tinoco’s are included in the bargaining unit of the Unions and subject to the  
15 collective bargaining agreement. This allegation suffices to demonstrate that a writing  
16 exists binding Tinoco’s Defendants to the terms of the CBA. Further, Tinoco’s  
17 Defendants payment – albeit allegedly late and insufficient payments – of fringe benefit  
18 contributions demonstrates at least a plausible claim that Tinoco’s Defendants adopted  
19 the labor agreements signed between Trustees and LVC, PlayLV, and Plaza. As such,  
20 the Motion is denied. The Court need not consider the sublease entered into by  
21 Tinoco’s or the Guarantee executed by Enrique Tinoco, which itself settles any question  
22 over whether Tinoco’s Defendants were under a contractual obligation to abide by the  
23 terms of the CBA and MOA.

24 **B. Plaintiffs’ Motion for Leave to File First Amended Complaint (dkt. no.**  
25 **27)**

26 Trustees seek leave to file a First Amended Complaint (“FAC”) to (1) add a  
27 defendant, Plaza Hotel & Casino, LLC, whose sole operator, PlayLV, is a defendant to  
28 this suit, (2) update several factual allegations, (3) update their requests for relief, and

1 (4) add a reference to the bankruptcy filing of Tinoco's Kitchen. Defendants did not file  
2 an Opposition to the Motion.

3 **1. Legal standard**

4 Under Fed. R. Civ. P. 15, a party may amend its complaint only by leave of the  
5 court once responsive pleadings have been filed and in the absence of the adverse  
6 party's written consent. *Thornton v. McClatchy Newspapers, Inc.*, 261 F.3d 789, 799  
7 (9th Cir. 2001). The court has discretion to grant leave and should freely do so "when  
8 justice so requires." *Allen v. City of Beverly Hills*, 911 F.2d 367, 373 (9th Cir. 1990)  
9 (quoting Fed. R. Civ. P. 15(a)). Nonetheless, courts may deny leave to amend if (1) it  
10 will cause undue delay; (2) cause undue prejudice to the opposing party; (3) the request  
11 is made in bad faith; (4) the party has repeatedly failed to cure deficiencies; or (5) the  
12 amendment would be futile. *Leadsinger, Inc. v. BMG Music Publ'g*, 512 F.3d 522, 532  
13 (9th Cir. 2008).

14 **2. Analysis**

15 No circumstances exist to deny Trustee's leave to amend their Complaint. First,  
16 filing the FAC would not create undue delay in the proceedings, since the added  
17 defendant's sole operator, PlayLV, is already a defendant to this suit. No serious delay  
18 in service or preparation would result from Plaza's addition to the suit, or from the  
19 additional information in the Amended Complaint. Second, no opposing party would be  
20 prejudiced by the new defendant or the information added, as they were or should have  
21 been aware of these new allegations as well as the involvement of Plaza in the lawsuit.  
22 Third, no indication of bad faith exists in Trustee's request to amend. Fourth, the  
23 amendments to the Complaint would not be futile, as Trustees have demonstrated that  
24 Plaza may be enjoined alongside the other defendants for violations of the labor  
25 agreements. Fifth, and perhaps most importantly, Defendants' failure to oppose the  
26 Motion constitutes consent to its granting. See Local Rule 7-2(d). Accordingly,  
27 Trustee's Motion for Leave is granted.

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**C. Trustee's Motion for Preliminary Injunction (dkt. no. 28)**

Trustees bring this Motion seeking a court order mandating Defendants comply with the terms of collective bargaining agreements signed between Defendants and the Unions by curing prior delinquencies and ordering Defendants to comply with these terms into the future. Trustees allege that Defendants Plaza, LVC, and PlayLV have not submitted one payment in a timely manner since December 16, 2011, and as a result accrued large delinquencies that they have been unwilling to cure.

**1. Legal Standard**

Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 65 governs the issuance of preliminary injunctions. A preliminary injunction may be issued if a plaintiff establishes: (1) likelihood of success on the merits; (2) likelihood of irreparable harm in the absence of preliminary relief; (3) that the balance of equities tips in his favor; and (4) that an injunction is in the public interest. *Winter v. Natural Res. Def. Council, Inc.*, 555 U.S. 7, 20 (2008). "Injunctive relief [is] an extraordinary remedy that may only be awarded upon a clear showing that the plaintiff is entitled to such relief." *Id.* at 22.

The Ninth Circuit has held that "serious questions going to the merits' and a hardship balance that tips sharply toward the plaintiff can support issuance of an injunction, assuming the other two elements of the *Winter* test are also met." *Alliance for the Wild Rockies v. Cottrell*, 632 F.3d 1127, 1132 (9th Cir. 2011). "In deciding a motion for a preliminary injunction, the district court 'is not bound to decide doubtful and difficult questions of law or disputed questions of fact.'" *Int'l. Molders' & Allied Workers' Local Union No. 164*, 799 F.2d 547, 551 (9th Cir. 1986) (quoting *Dymo Indus., Inc. v. Tapeprinter, Inc.*, 326 F.2d 141, 143 (9th Cir. 1964)).

"The urgency of obtaining a preliminary injunction necessitates a prompt determination and makes it difficult to obtain affidavits from persons who would be competent to testify at trial. The trial court may give even inadmissible evidence some weight, when to do so serves the purpose of preventing irreparable harm before trial."

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1 *Flynt Distrib. Co., Inc. v. Harvey*, 734 F.2d 1389, 1394 (9th Cir. 1984) (citing 11 C. Wright  
2 and A. Miller, *Federal Practice and Procedure, Civil*, § 2949 at 471 (1973)).

## 3 **2. Analysis**

4 ERISA is a comprehensive and remedial statute designed to promote and protect  
5 the interests of participants and their beneficiaries in employee benefit plans. *Shaw v.*  
6 *Delta Air Lines, Inc.*, 463 U.S. 85, 90 (1983); *Nachman Corp. v. Pension Benefit Guar.*  
7 *Corp.*, 446 U.S. 359, 361-62 (1980). Defendants, with the exception of Tinoco's  
8 Defendants,<sup>1</sup> are employers within the meaning of ERISA. See 29 U.S.C. § 1002(5).  
9 Under ERISA,

10 [e]very employer who is obligated to make contributions to a multiemployer  
11 plan under the terms of the plan or under the terms of a collectively  
12 bargained agreement shall, to the extent not inconsistent with law, make  
such contributions in accordance with the terms and conditions of such  
plan or such agreement.

13 29 U.S.C. § 1145. Here, as detailed above, the record demonstrates that the Unions  
14 entered into a collective bargaining agreement with Defendant LVC, who agreed to the  
15 terms and conditions of the Trust Agreements, and executed the MOA. Defendants  
16 Plaza, LVC, and PlayLV are obligated through these agreements to report the identities  
17 and hours worked of Tinoco's employees on a monthly basis, and to use that information  
18 to provide monthly contributions to the Trusts for fringe benefits.

19 When an employer fails to make such contributions, ERISA provides that the  
20 fiduciary for a plan – in this case Trustees – may bring an action and obtain a mandatory  
21 award for the plan consisting of:

- 22 (A) the unpaid contributions,
- 23 (B) interest on the unpaid contributions,
- 24 (C) an amount equal to the greater of –  
  - 25 (i) interest on the unpaid contributions, or
  - 26 (ii) liquidated damages provided for under the plan in an amount not  
in excess of 20 percent (or such higher percentage as may be  
27 permitted under Federal or State law) of the amount determined by  
the court under subparagraph (A),
- 28 (D) reasonable attorney's fees and costs of the action, to be paid by the  
defendant, and

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<sup>1</sup>Trustees do not seek a preliminary injunction against Tinoco's Defendants.

1 (E) such other legal or equitable relief as the court deems appropriate.

2 29 U.S.C. § 1132(g)(2). In addition to the remedies available under ERISA, a benefit

3 trust fund may, as a third-party beneficiary, recover for breach of a collective bargaining

4 agreement under 29 U.S.C. § 185(a). *See Hudson Cnty. Carpenters Union Local Union*

5 *No. 6. v. V.S.R. Constr. Corp.*, 127 F.Supp.2d 565, 568 (D.N.J. 2000) (“It is

6 well-established that the failure to make contributions to a union trust fund as required by

7 a collective bargaining agreement constitutes a violation of ERISA § 515 and a violation

8 of [29 U.S.C. § 185].”); *Bugher v. Feightner*, 722 F.2d 1356, 1357-60 (7th Cir. 1983)

9 (explaining that ERISA remedies are intended to supplement rather than supersede

10 rights existing under 29 U.S.C. § 185(a)).

11 Further, ERISA provides that an action may be brought “by a participant,

12 beneficiary, or fiduciary (A) to enjoin any act or practice which violates any provision of

13 this subchapter or the terms of the plan, or (B) to obtain other appropriate equitable relief

14 (i) to redress such violations or (ii) to enforce any provisions of this subchapter or the

15 terms of the plan.” 28 U.S.C. § 1132(a)(3). ERISA permits a court to grant such

16 injunctive relief “to enjoin a recalcitrant employer from failing to comply with the benefit

17 payment provisions of a labor agreement.” *Laborers Fringe Ben. Funds v. Nw. Concrete*

18 *& Constr., Inc.*, 640 F.2d 1350, 1351-52 (6th Cir.1981) (per curiam).

19 **a. Likelihood of success on the merits**

20 Plaintiffs have met their burden of demonstrating a likelihood of success on the

21 merits. Defendants effectively concede that they have not made the required

22 contributions in accordance with the terms and conditions of the various labor

23 agreements effective here. Defendants only oppose the Motion on the grounds that (1)

24 the Plaza is not a party to the litigation; (2) the Motion violates the automatic stay in the

25 Tinoco’s Kitchen bankruptcy; (3) Defendants have complied with the CBA because they

26 have been submitting reports in a timely manner; and (4) no threat of irreparable harm

27 exists for failure to provide payments in a timely manner. These arguments fail.

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1 First, by virtue of the Court's ruling on Trustee's Motion for Leave to Amend,  
2 Plaza is a proper party to the suit, and subject to any injunction issued by the Court.  
3 Second, Trustees do not seek an injunction against Tinoco's Defendants, and thus are  
4 not violating the automatic stay involved in the bankruptcy petition. Third, the fact that  
5 the reports were timely delivered does not cure the deficiencies in benefit payments.  
6 Fourth, irreparable harm does exist notwithstanding what appears only to be a monetary  
7 loss that Trustees seek to remedy, as explained below.

8 **b. Likelihood of irreparable harm**

9 While Trustees argue that the traditional requirements of a preliminary injunction  
10 do not apply where a statute, such as ERISA, specifically empowers a court to grant  
11 injunctive relief, courts nevertheless have applied the traditional elements of a  
12 preliminary injunction in cases like this one involving alleged delinquencies in payments  
13 of trust obligations under an ERISA plan. See, e.g., *Sheet Metal Workers' Intern. Ass'n,*  
14 *Local 206, of Sheet Metal Workers' Intern. Ass'n, AFL-CIO v. W. Coast Sheet Metal Co.,*  
15 *660 F. Supp. 1500, 1505-06 (9th Cir. 1987); Int'l Res., Inc. v. New York Life Ins. Co.,* 950  
16 *F.2d 294, 302 (6th Cir. 1991); Laborers Fringe Ben. Funds,* 640 F.2d at 1353; *Solis v.*  
17 *Hutcheson,* No. 12-236, 2012 WL 2151525, at \*5-7 (D. Idaho June 13, 2012).

18 Although purely monetary damages typically cannot sustain a finding of  
19 irreparable harm, failure to pay benefits to employees under an obligation in an ERISA  
20 plan has been held to constitute irreparable injury due to its non-monetary  
21 consequences. See *United Steelworkers of Am., AFL-CIO v. Fort Pitt Steel Casting,* 598  
22 *F.2d 1273, 1280 (3d. Cir. 1979)* ("[T]he fact that the payment of monies is involved does  
23 not automatically preclude a finding of irreparable injury."); *Gould v. Lambert Excavating,*  
24 *Inc.,* 870 F.2d 1214, 1217-18 (7th Cir. 1989) (affirming preliminary injunction award  
25 against employer for failure to make pension fund contributions, noting that "if a pension  
26 is making payments without receiving contributions its stability may be jeopardized");  
27 *Meehan v. Gristede's Supermarkets, Inc.,* No. 95-2104, 1997 WL 1097751, \*3 (E.D.N.Y.  
28 Sep. 25, 1997) (loss of health insurance benefits may irreparably harm employees and

1 their families); *Bd. Of Trs. For the Ohio Laborers' Fringe Benefit Programs v. Savcon,*  
2 *Inc.*, No. 10-657, 2011 WL 2633184, at \*5 (S.D. Ohio July 5, 2011).

3 Here, Alicia Hernandez, accounting manager for the administrator of Southern  
4 Nevada Culinary and Bartenders Pension Trust, described in her affidavit how annual  
5 audits of the trust fund include actuarial analyses that assume employers will pay  
6 monthly contributions in a timely manner. (Dkt. no. 31 at ¶ 5.) Failure to pay  
7 contributions on time places the fund in “a position where is it [sic] required to pay out  
8 benefits despite never receiving the contributions to cover those benefits,” which  
9 “undermines the actuarial assumptions used to project the financial stability of the Fund  
10 and its ability to provide coverage to its participants.” (*Id.* at ¶ 6.) Given the instability  
11 that results from delinquent contributions to fringe benefit plans, Trustees have  
12 established a threat of irreparable harm beyond mere monetary losses, since the fiscal  
13 and actuarial soundness of their benefits plans are jeopardized by Defendants' actions.  
14 A threatened loss of these crucial insurance benefits suffices to establish a threat of  
15 irreparable injury. See *Whelan v. Colgan*, 602 F.2d 1060, 1062 (2d Cir. 1979) (“[T]he  
16 threatened termination of benefits such as medical coverage for workers and their  
17 families obviously raised the spectre of irreparable injury.”).

18 The threat of irreparable harm is further compounded by the history of judgments  
19 by confession entered into by employees associations and Defendant LVC, Plaza, and  
20 PlayLV for unpaid contributions. See *The Hotel Emps. And Restaurant Emps. Int'l*  
21 *Union Welfare Fund v. Las Vegas Club Hotel & Casino, LLC*, No. 11-1176 (D. Nev. July  
22 21, 2011) (order granting judgment by confession); *The Hotel Emps. And Restaurant*  
23 *Emps. Int'l Union Welfare Fund v. Plaza Hotel & Casino, LLC*, No. 11-1176 (D. Nev.  
24 Aug. 9, 2012) (same); see also *Bd. Of Trs. For the Laborers' Fringe Benefit Programs*,  
25 2011 WL 2633184, at \*5 (prior history of delinquencies weighed in favor of issuing  
26 preliminary injunction).

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1                                    **c.      Balance of hardships and public interest**

2            The balance of hardships and public interest also favors issuing a preliminary  
3 injunction. It is little hardship upon Defendants to be subject to an injunction ordering  
4 them to comply with obligations they are already subject to, while Trustees have  
5 demonstrated hardship that would result from continued delinquencies by Defendants.  
6 The public's interest in maintaining the integrity of employees' fringe benefit plans also  
7 counsels for a preliminary injunction. Trustees have thus established the requirements  
8 for issuance of preliminary relief.

9            **IV.      CONCLUSION**

10           Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED THAT Defendants Tinoco's Kitchen, LLC and  
11 Enrique Tinoco's Motion to Dismiss (dkt. no. 8) is DENIED.

12           IT IS FURTHER ORDERED THAT Plaintiffs United Here Health and Southern  
13 Nevada Culinary and Bartenders Pension Trust Fund's Motion for Leave to Amend (dkt.  
14 no. 27) is GRANTED.

15           IT IS FURTHER ORDERED THAT Plaintiffs' Motion for Preliminary Injunction  
16 (dkt. no. 28) is GRANTED.

17           Defendants PlayLV, LVC, and Plaza are ordered to cure all outstanding  
18 deficiencies in fringe benefits contributions, and to comply with their obligations as set  
19 out under the applicable labor and trust agreements between the parties. This includes  
20 Defendants' obligation to report employment data to Trustees on a timely basis, as well  
21 as Defendants' obligations to timely make contributions to their employees' fringe  
22 benefits plans.

23           DATED THIS 13<sup>th</sup> day of November 2012.

24             
25           \_\_\_\_\_  
26           MIRANDA M. DU  
27           UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE  
28